

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 13

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

M = 1075

MESSAGE = 00608917

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-50 USC 403

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

MMSSGMSG0270575CZCDRBA23 *****

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TO [REDACTED] NOVEMBER ALFA

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XXMM

ENP01FT318088 2/02/VCK-E/R288-68 AVC.KUS/AVIA-A.OPER. [REDACTED] DAMC/L. (CALL TIMES ZULU) FOLLOW-UP NUMBER TWO AND FINAL TO USA-32 SPOT REPORT 2/H3/VCK/R332-68, DTG: 170131 AUGUST 1968. U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED DURING ENGAGEMENT WITH NVAF MIGS IN THE VINH AREA. XXCC

ON 17 AUGUST NVAF MIGS, AS REFLECTED BY NVN AIR SURVEILLANCE, AIR OPERATIONS, AND TACTICAL AIR FACILITIES, ONCE AGAIN UTILIZED THE FORWARD STAGING BASE AT BAI THUONG (NOT USED FOR THE PURPOSE SINCE A MIG-21 WAS DOWNED ON 01 AUGUST: SEE USA-32 SPOT REPORT 2/H3/VCK/R311-68, DTG: 010417Z AND FOLLOW-UPS) FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST U.S. STRIKE AIRCRAFT IN THE VINH AREA. THE TWO PERIODS OF VINH AREA ACTIVITY INVOLVING A FORCE OF FOUR MIG-17'S AND TWO MIG-21'S THAT DEPLOYED TO THE STAGING BASE THE PREVIOUS DAY (SEE USA-32 SPOT REPORT 2/H3/VCK/R330-68, DTG: 16/0002 AUG 68) COMBINED WITH THE MORE RECENTLY DEPLOYED (01 HOUR ON 17 AUGUST) FORCE OF AT LEAST TWO MIG-21'S, WERE CLIMAXED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF A U.S. NAVY F4B. BEGINNING AT 0045, AIR OPERATIONS MESSAGED BETWEEN HANOI BAC MAI AND BAI THUONG INDICATED AT LEAST TWO, POSSIBLY FOUR MIG-21'S WERE TO DEPLOY TO BAI THUONG. THESE MESSAGES INDICATED A TOTAL OF FOUR, POSSIBLY SIX MIG-21 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE AT BAI THUONG DURING THE DAY. TWO OF THE MIGS WERE INITIALLY REFLECTED BY AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES FROM THE HANOI AREA TO BAI THUONG AIRFIELD AT 0112 AND LANDED SUBSEQUENT TO 0135. AS EARLY AS 0226 THE BAI THUONG MIGS WERE PLACED ON CONDITION TWO AND WERE LATER TO BE PLACED ON CONDITION ONE AT 0304. AT 0312, VINH INFORMED BAI THUONG THAT THE MIG-21'S WERE TO TAKE OFF AT 0314 AND A MESSAGE IN THE NEXT MINUTE POSSIBLY REPORTED THAT MIG-17'S TOOK OFF AT 0310. NVN AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES REFLECTED FLIGHTS OF TWO (PROBABLE MIG-21) AND FOUR (PROBABLE MIG-17) AIRCRAFT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REFLECTED IN AN AREA SOUTHWEST OF BAI THUONG. THE CLOSEST NOTED APPROACH TO HOSTILE AIRCRAFT DURING THIS ACTIVITY WAS 20 NM AT 0324 WHEN THE MIGS WERE LOCATED AT 19-40N/105-22E. THE FIGHTERS SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO BAI THUONG, WHERE THE MIG-17'S LANDED AT 0345, FOLLOWED BY THE MIG-21'S AT 0348. THE SECOND PERIOD OF MIG ACTIVITY BEGAN AT 0901 WHEN TWO MIG-21'S WERE NOTED FLYING SOUTH FROM BAI THUONG, AND FOUR MINUTES LATER THE BAI THUONG GCI RADAR WAS ACTIVATED. THE INTERCEPTORS PROCEEDED TO AN AREA WEST OF VINH AND, RECEIVING VECTORING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE VINH CONTROLLER BEGINNING AT 0910, APPROACHED WITHIN A REPORTED 3.8 NM OF THE HOSTILES, IDENTIFIED AS TWO "F-4'S". LATER, AT 0923, THE FLIGHT LEADER REPORTED THAT HE HAD FIRED ONE MISSILE AND CLAIMED TO HAVE DESTROYED AN F-4. AT THIS TIME, AND UNIDENTIFIED CONTROLLER REPORTED TO VINH THAT TWO (PILOTS) HAD PARACHUTED. THE MIGS SUBSEQUENTLY REVERSED COURSE AND RETURNED TO BAI THUONG, LANDING THERE BY 0931. DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE ENGAGEMENT IN THE VINH AREA, TWO ADDITIONAL MIG-21'S AND PROBABLY FOUR MIG-17'S WERE REFLECTED AIRBORNE FROM BAI THUONG IN AN APPARENT

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(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

REFNO # 1252

17 AUG 68

F4B (NAVY)

GARTLEY, MARKHAM
MAYHEW, WILLIAM JOHN

2/VCK-R332-68
94803152-1-0087 #1252

542

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DEFENSIVE PATROL PROBABLY IN PROTECTION OF THE MIG-21'S THAT WOULD BE RETURNING TO BAI THUONG FROM THE VINH AREA. THESE MIGS ORBITED IN AN AREA SOUTHWEST OF BAI THUONG AND RETURNED TO THE SOUTHERN STAGING BASE BY 1000. SRO-2 IFF RADAR EMISSIONS, INDICATIVE OF MIG-17 AIRCRAFT, WERE DETECTED BETWEEN 0913 AND 0948. BETWEEN 0910 AND 0930, JAMMING OF VHF COMMUNICATIONS WAS CONDUCTED BY U.S. FORCES, AS REFLECTED IN NVAF TACTICAL AIR COMMUNICATIONS. IN THE FINAL PERIOD OF ACTIVITY, DURING THE LATE 10 AND EARLY 11 HOURS, NVAF TACTICAL AIR AND AIR SUR-VEILLANCE FACILITIES REFLECTED THE RETURN FLIGHT OF FOUR MIG-17'S AND FOUR MIG-21'S FROM BAI THUONG TO PHUC YEN. COMMENTS: OPERATIONAL DATA REVEALS THAT DAKOTA FLIGHT (TWO U.S. NAVY F-4'S) RECEIVED A MIG WARNING WHILE RETURNING FROM A STRIKE MISSION IN THE VINH AREA. IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTERCEPT THE MIGS, DAKOTA 200 APPARENTLY OVERSHOT ONE OF THE MIGS AND EXECUTED A RIGHT TURN, SIMULTANEOUSLY RECEIVING A SECOND MIG WARNING. DAKOTA 201 THEN SIGHTED WHAT HE BELIEVED WAS A MIG, BUT WAS IN REALITY DAKOTA 206 WHO, DESPITE EVASIVE MANUEVERS, WAS OBSERVED HIT BY AT LEAST TWO OF THE MISSILES: AND WAS LATER SEEN WITH HIS LEFT ENGINE AFLAME. REFERENCE [REDACTED] FOLLOW-UP NUMBER ONE THIS SERIES: DELETE ALL REFERENCES TO "FEINT/DIVERSION". THE ACTUAL MEANING/USAGE OF THIS VIETNAMESE WORD IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. XXHH 888 NNNN

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